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09/556,949	04/21/2000	Yasuo Nomura	203722US6	6510

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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

ONUAKU, CHRISTOPHER O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2621

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/06/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 6/27/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Aoki and Small, neither alone, nor in combination, teach or suggest the user interface recited in the pending independent claims, wherein "said first user interface displays said recording button in a first status in **which a button accepts a user input** and said playback button in a second status **in which a button does not accept a user input** and said second user interface displays said recording button in the second status and said playback button in the first status". Examiner disagrees.

In response, Aoki et al clearly show in the display interface of Fig.3, the "REC" and "PLAY" icons. In the different modes display of Fig.3, the "REC" icon is illuminated (claimed first status) when the recording function is initiated, at which time the "PLAY" (playback) icon is not illuminated (claimed second status); however, when a playback function is initiated, the "PLAY" icon is illuminated (claimed first status) but the "REC" (recording) icon is not illuminated (claimed second status) (see Fig.3,7A,7B,8A,8C,8D,9A&9B; and col.8, lines 56-68 and col.10, line 50 to col.11, line 38; and claims 1,6,7&25 rejections below).

With reference to the limitation in bold italicized characters, Aoki clearly discloses that when the selector switch 19 is depressed, a recording or playback display function based on the record or playback mode is effected (see col.10, line 39 to col.11, line 2), and furthermore, when the release button 20 is depressed halfway, playback of

recorded information begins (see col.11, lines 29-38). The effecting of a display function when selector switch 19 is depressed, and the effecting of a playback function when the release button 20 is depressed indicates a user interface function because the user/viewer must have effected the depressing of the selector switch 19 to effect a display of "REC" or "PLAY" function and the depressing of the release button 20 to begin the playback of recorded information (see some manual functions disclosed.

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTOPHER ONUAKU whose telephone number is (571)272-7379. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on 571-272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Christopher Onuaku/
Examiner, Art Unit 2621

/John W. Miller/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2623